



# CELEBRATING HISPANIC & LATINO HERITAGE

## Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 8, 2006

### First Latino Association in Indiana takes Shape

Juana Watson, Governor Daniels' Senior Advisor of Latino Affairs, recently announced the first Latino Association in Indiana.

"The Latino Association looks to connect the entire Hispanic/Latino community in Indiana," said Watson. "The association will look to help push forward all Hispanic/Latinos in the Hoosier State."

For more information on Indiana's Latino Association, please visit [www.islhaonline.org](http://www.islhaonline.org).

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFERS BILINGUAL SERVICES

The Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) has worked with Simply Spanish, a homegrown Indiana company, to develop industry specific training DVD's. An affordable training option for employers learning Spanish and employees learning English, the culturally sensitive training provides a detailed description of personal protective equipment for employees in the construction industry.

IDOL is also currently working on translations for their website giving the public the option of accessing services in English or Spanish. Bilingual employees will be available to assist with any questions or concerns.

For more information visit:

<http://www.in.gov/labor/spanish/index.html>

## MAJOR MOVES CREATES JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOOSIER MINORITIES

The recent shattering of transportation investment records is good news for Hoosier minority-owned businesses.

With a projected \$826 million in spending on roads, bridges, and highways in 2007 alone Hoosiers can expect to see a drop in unemployment and a rise in economic development. Indiana's updated transportation infrastructure will pave the way for accelerated business development and expansion.

"[Major Moves] will enable the state to complete more than 200 vital transportation projects, creating tens of thousands of new jobs and a modern road network that will enable Indiana to maintain its strategic position as the 'Crossroads of America,'" said Governor Daniels.

Tens of thousands of jobs will be created in Indiana through Major Moves projects, giving minority and women-owned businesses the opportunity to advance and continue to strengthen the State's economy.



Governor Mitch Daniels and Juana Watson participate in the festivities celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

### GOV. DANIELS CREATES FIRST OFFICE OF LATINO AFFAIRS

A little over a year ago, Governor Mitch Daniels made history as the first Governor in Indiana to create the Office of Latino Affairs.

On May 4, 2005, Juana Watson was announced as the State's first Senior Advisor for Latino Affairs.

"Our growing Latino population is already playing an important role in economic development in Indiana," said Daniels.

Among her responsibilities, Watson continues to provide counsel to the Governor on policy issues related to the Hispanic community, work with Latino community resources centers, and assist public safety officials with recruitment and community relations.

## Northwest Indiana Forming Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

With the help of Juana Watson, Governor Daniels' Senior Advisor of Latino Affairs, Northwest Indiana is forming its first Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

"Most Latino business owners don't join the regular chamber of commerce because they don't feel that they belong

there," said Watson.

A Hispanic Chamber in Northwest Indiana will enable officials to identify the needs of this growing population while providing access and information about Hispanic companies to area residents. With the help of Mary Jane Gonzalez, president of the Indiana His-

panic Chamber of Commerce NWI has been able to make this idea a reality. Gilbert Velez will be acting as president of the NWI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The first fundraising dinner is scheduled for October 21, 2006.